Construction of Mangalore-Bombay-Konkan Railway Project

1083. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have seen the news reports which appeared in the Hindustan Times of 9th April, 1990 under the caption 'An Innovative Concept of Cheaper Konkan Railway Plan' proposed by a former Railway official ;

(b) if so, what are the specific suggestions for the 837 km. Mangalore—Bombay—Konkan railway construction; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto and the follow-up action thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is attached. (*See* below).

(c) The suggestions given do not merit any follow-up action as they cannot be implemented.

Statement

(b) Some suggestions as contained in the news report of Hindustan Times of 9-4-1990 are given below :—

(i) Self financing scheme with redeployment of redundant assets of the railways and one section paying for the next section ;

(ii) Emphasis on passenger and freight services first, buildings and amenities coming later, when the line becomes profitable ;

(iii) Line to be constructed from Mangalore to Chiplun only and from Chiplun to Dasgaon, the passengers can be taken by existing road transport services on the National Highway network ;

(iv) Land to be obtained on long lease from land owners by passing a special law if necessary for this purpose ;

(v) To find money and men for the project, surplus Bandra Marshalling Yard to be dismantled and the land in Metropolitan area be sold to finance the project. Surplus material and menpower of Bandra Yard to be redeployed for this project ; and

(vi) Use of unserviceable wagons/coaches as passenger waiting sheds at stations and doing away with terminal buildings, station buildings and platforms etc.

Availability of potable water and sanitation facilities in Andhra Pradesh

1084. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the approximate urban population in Andhra Pradesh who are not getting safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities ; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to provide safe drinking water in the urban areas of Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The information is being collected.

(b) Water supply is a State subject. It is the responsibility of the Government of Andhra Pradesh to provide safe drinking water to the urban population by making necessary plan provisions in the State sector. They can draw upon institutional finance for additional resources.

Fish farming agencies in Andhra Pradesh

1085. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number and locations of the fish farming agencies set up so far in Andhra Pradesh ; and

(b) the specific contribution made by these agencies in the promotion of fishing during the Seventh Five Year Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) Fish Farmers' Development Agencies have been sanctioned for the following 22 districts in Andhra Pradesh ;